

VIA CLASSIFIED DEX

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July 7, 1971

FOR: Al Haig

FROM: Dick Kennedy

The attached Stearman summary of the Le Duc The New York Times interview has been transmitted to Henry as SIT TO 46.

Attachment

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July 7, 1971 -- SIT TO 46

TO: David Halperin for Henry A. Kissinger
FROM: Colonel Richard T. Kennedy

Following is brief summary by Stearman of the Le Duc Tho
New York Times interview transmitted separately to you.

Le Duc Tho, in his New York Times interview of July 6,
stressed that the U. S. should discuss political and other problems
after a deadline was set.

He stated that a deadline was the "first step" in settling the
war and added: "It does not mean that only point one is settled and
we stop there."

Tho said that a political settlement could be reached separately
from point one (deadline, etc.); however, he stated that after the with-
drawal is completed, the PRG will be discussing the "other problems"
with a new Saigon administration.

Tho called upon President Nixon to use the election to depose
Thieu. This, he said, would be a "yardstick to show whether Mr. Nixon
desires a peaceful settlement of the war or not."

Tho warned that point one cannot be settled if the U. S. insists on
linking it with other conditions, such as ceasefire throughout Indochina.

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On the question of future economic and military aid, Tho referred to point five of the "7 points." He thereby indicated that such aid would not involve the present GVN, but would be discussed as part of an overall settlement of the war.

The rest of the interview revealed little that was new, and the interviewer made little attempt to pin Tho down on the more critical aspects of the "7 point" proposal.

RTK:lds:7/7/71

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